Safety & Justice
How Should Communities Reduce Violence?

Option 1: Enforce the Law Together
Expand policing while strengthening community-police partnerships.

Examples of What Might Be Done:
- Communities can hire and deploy significantly more police officers and train them in community policing.
- More citizens could fulfill their own obligations to the criminal justice system by reporting crimes.
- Train more people in the responsible use and carrying of firearms, and enact more "stand your ground" laws.

Trade-offs to Consider:
- This might cause community trust and neighbors to end up targeting people based on race, ethnic, or religious biases.
- This could create the oppressive feel of a police state.
- Some citizens might find it hard to attract and hire new officers.
- This would create a "law and order" atmosphere where racial profiling could come into play.
- Some police officers might feel targets of the legal system.
- More citizens could feel that they are not treated fairly or unfairly.
- People may act as vigilantes.

Option 2: Apply the Law Fairly
Remove injustices, reform inequities, and improve accountability.

Examples of What Might Be Done:
- Communities can disrupt gang activity and stop violence before it occurs.
- States and cities can invest in more mental health treatment programs and hospitals to reduce violence against and by those with mental illnesses.

Trade-offs to Consider:
- Community members could disrupt activities, and others could become the victims.
- Cities could stop allowing police to use military hardware, especially for crowd control.
- Police officers might be under-equipped or underfunded in the worst situations, such as active shooter incidents.

Option 3: De-escalate & Prevent Violence
Reduce the culture of violence and take direct actions to disrupt conflict.

Examples of What Might Be Done:
- Community members can disrupt gang activity and stop violence before it occurs.
- Cities could stop allowing police to use military hardware, especially for crowd control.
- Police officers might be under-equipped or underfunded in the worst situations, such as active shooter incidents.

Trade-offs to Consider:
- Community members could put themselves and others at risk.
- Local governments could sponsor gun buy-back programs to reduce the number of guns in circulation.
- Those likely to participate in these programs are probably not the ones using guns for illegal purposes.